

Message Text

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S E C R E T NOFORN KINGSTON 2474

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSGC PINR, OVIP, TD, JM (MRS. CARTER)
SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO JAMAICA: BIO DATA ON RICHARD
FLETCHER, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROJECTS
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

REFERENCE: STATE 104923

1. SEPTELS, IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, HAVE PROVIDED BRIEF BIO SKETCHES OF PROMINENT JAMAICAN PERSONALITIES (E.G. GOVERNOR GENERAL GLASSPOLE, PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. MANLEY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER DAVID COORE) MRS. CARTER WILL MEET DURING HER JAMAICAN VISIT. ALTHOUGH RICHARD FLETCHER IS NOT HIGH UP ON THE JAMAICAN PROTOCOL LIST, HIS PROMINENT ROLE AS THE ARCHITECT OF JAMAICA'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND HIS EMERGENCE AS A POTENTIAL POLITICAL LEADER OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE, SEEMS TO ASSURE THAT RICHARD FLETCHER WILL PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE DURING SOME EVENTS IN MRS. CARTER'S PROGRAM -- IF ONLY BECAUSE HE IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY ARTICULATE PROMOTER OF EXPANDED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA. WE ARE THEREFORE PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING BIO SKETCH ON FLETCHER.

2. RICHARD FLETCHER, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROJECTS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. RICHARD DOUGLAS ROSE FLETCHER WAS BORN DECEMBER 30, 1943, IN
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ST. ANDREW, JAMAICA, THE SON OF DOUGLAS FLETCHER AND HAZEL ROSE. (HIS FATHER WAS JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. BETWEEN 1972-1975.) HE WAS EDUCATED AT JAMAICA COLLEGE (1953-60), THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (1960-63, B. SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS), AND AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY (1963-68, BA IN LAW AND B. PHILOSOPHY IN ECONOMICS). HE QUALIFIED AS A BARRISTER-IN-LAW IN 1968

AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER JOINED THE WORLD BANK. HE WORKED AS AN ECONOMIST FOR THE WORLD BANK IN TURKEY, NEW GUINEA, THE U.S., AND BRAZIL. IN JULY 1972, HE BECAME A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER MANLEY. IN APRIL 1973, HE WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY. HE HAS TRAVELLED SEVERAL TIMES TO CUBA. HIS WIFE, THE FORMER SHIRLEY ANDERSON, IS A SISTER OF PM MANLEY'S WIFE. IN JANUARY 1977, HE WAS NAMED SENATOR AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROJECTS, UNDER THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANNING.

3. FLETCHER, ALTHOUGH A LEFTIST WITHIN THE JAMAICAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM, AND A DEDICATED "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST", IS ABOVE ALL PRAGMATIC IN HIS POLITICS AND HIS ECONOMICS. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS BACKGROUND WITH THE IBRD AND IMF, HE HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT ADVOCATE OF TRADITIONAL SOLUTIONS TO JAMAICA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS WHILE REMAINING COMMITTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S AND TO THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY'S GOAL OF RESTRUCTURING OF JAMAICAN SOCIETY ALONG SOCIALIST, EGALITARIAN, SELF-RELIANT LINES. WHEN EFFORTS EARLIER THIS YEAR BY RADICAL LEFTISTS TO PRODUCE RADICAL ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS TO THE CURRENT CRISIS FAILED, FLETCHER EMERGED AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE CURRENT, MORE MODERATE AND TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY THAT REQUIRES, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, RESORT TO THE IMF, IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S., AND EXPANDED U.S. ASSISTANCE. IN THIS PROCESS HE HAS BECOME A KEY ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

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4. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT YET HELD AN ELECTED OFFICE, HE ACTS AND TALKS LIKE A MAN WITH VERY FIRM POLITICAL AMBITIONS. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT IN TIME HE WILL BECOME AN ELECTED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AN INNER CABINET MINISTER, AND ULTIMATELY, PERHAPS, CONTENDER FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP.

5. HE IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY ARTICULATE, FRANK AND SOMETIMES CYNICAL ADVOCATE FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN JAMAICA AND CAN BE ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, I.E. HE IS QUITE CAPABLE OF SWITCHING FROM A RADICAL TO A CONSERVATIVE STANCE WITH ABSOLUTE EASE DEPENDING UPON HIS AUDIENCE AND THE SUBJECT AT HAND. HE IS ALSO BY ANY STANDARD HARD-WORKING AND BRILLIANT. HE IS WITHOUT QUESTION A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN TODAY'S JAMAICA -- BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SCENE AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAMAICA. HE DOES HAVE A BALANCED VIEW OF THE U.S. AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE INTER-

DEPENDENT CHARACTER OF OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS
WHICH ARGUE FOR GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AT THE
POLITICAL LEVEL.
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